

St. Stephen's News

St Stephen's Anglican Church
Timonium, Maryland

Vol. XXV, Number 18

Edited by Don Ruthig

May 13th, 2014

FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

A marvelous day in the garden

A beautiful day suddenly appearing in a week of turbulent weather? Rain showers that held off until exactly 4:05 PM? Surely, this was divine intervention! Once again this year, the sun shone on St. Stephen's Garden Party, providing a little bit of Britain to guests who enjoyed the authentic food, pub offerings, maypole and a festive atmosphere as only the British can provide.

Our Master of Ceremonies, Bill Hawkins, kept events moving along. After the piping in of our rector, Fr. Guy Hawtin and His Majesty King Henry VIII, (followed, of course, by our court jester!) guests were included in the maypole and English country dances guided by the Baltimore Folk Music Society. The Musica Camerata singers added a festive note in their Renaissance costumes, and the John F. Nicoll Pipe Band, always a favorite, offered familiar and traditional pipe band airs.

A highlight of the day, something new to the Garden Party, was Professor Horn's Punch & Judy show, with authentic puppets and stage. A long-standing tradition in the British Isles, Punch & Judy puppetry delights both children and adults, as was evident by our audience reactions. We hope Punch & Judy will become a regular offering at our fete.

No true British Garden Party could be complete without our many other booths: a "jumble" table, Arts & Crafts, flowers and herbs, a bake table, books – some real bargains here! – and a wine wheel, all set off with attractive signage. Thankfully, the lord high Gaoler had few subjects in the stocks! Between the bouncing castle, children's races, face painting and games, our largest contingent of children yet was royally entertained.

Guests were astonished at the transformation of Quimby Hall to a traditional British Afternoon tea room, complete with china tea cups and plates. Each year, our tea room gets more beautiful.

The Garden Party was spearheaded by a planning committee: Cindie Baker, Bill and Annie Hawkins, Priscilla and Dick Huffman, Happy Riley, Don Ruthig, and an operations group: Rosa Halbert, Colby Hawks, Martha Miller, and Priscilla Huffman. Many, many other in our congregation contributed hours of their time in planning, preparation, set up, and clean up.

Be sure to save your Garden Party brochure. Not only are there Peter Threadgill's amusing write-ups, but this year three special prayers were included on P. 14.

We invite your feedback on continuing to make the Garden Party a successful event. Please e-mail any ideas or comments to Priscilla Huffman at priscillahuffman@verizon.net

Again, thanks for the extraordinary efforts on the part of our many volunteers. For those who missed out on the fun of preparation and organization, you are invited to join the happy crew next year for camaraderie and fellowship.

And the reviews are in....

[The following was excerpted from an online blog entitled "Desperate English Housewife in Washington" - ukdesperatehousewife.com.]

A Little Piece of Britain in the USA

Yesterday I headed north of Baltimore to an event I had been invited to. 'The British Garden Party and Fete' in Timonium, MD.

Now, to be honest, I did say to my friend that this could be bloody awful or it could be totally ace.

Thankfully, it was the latter.

When we rocked up it certainly felt like a little piece of Britain had been created on the lawn of St Stephen's Anglican Church. Blow me down, there's Henry VIII lording it up! And a British bobby! And folks doing Maypole dancing! And a Punch and Judy show! Am I in a Cotswold village? Nope, I'm 10 miles from Baltimore's Inner Harbor!

The lovely people who organise this (a mixture of Brits and Americans) got it spot on. Cups of tea, pieces of homemade cake, pipe bands, pin the tail on the donkey, sack races, glamorous granny and knobby knee competitions, and of course, the flower show – it was certainly an authentic British fete – just like the ones my mother and her chums go to!

Calendar of Events

Weekly Activities at St Stephen's

Tuesdays, 7.00 AM: Breakfast Fellowship at the Nautilus Diner

Thursdays, 10.00 AM: Knitting Circle meets in Quimby Hall

Thursdays, 6.30 PM: Bridge Club in Quimby Hall (beginning on May 22nd)

Fridays, 10.30 AM: Bible Study in the Cadwalader Room
Special Events

Tuesday, May 13th, 7.00 PM: Parish Life Committee Meets in the Cadwalader Room

Thursday, May 15th, 2.00 PM: Afternoon Tea

Wednesday, May 21st, 12.15 PM: The Ladies Who Lunch at the Macaroni Grill

Sunday, May 25th, 10.30 AM: Annual Parish Meeting in the Cadwalader Room

Thursday, June 19th: Silly Summer Suppers begin

And I think they even got a spot of rain in the afternoon. See – can't get more British than that, can you?!

FROM THE TREASURER

[NOTE: This is the second of a series of three reports in preparation for the annual Parish Meeting on May 25th. Next week the Rector will present his report.]

Parish plate income up by a full 7 percent

CALENDAR 2013 was a year of solid income growth for St. Stephen's Anglican Church, with pledged and un-pledged income up by a handsome 7.2 percent from \$279,121 in 2012 to \$299,281.

This is income the church can rely upon with rather greater confidence than the more unpredictable revenue generated by designated gifts, fees for weddings and funerals, and investment returns from the parish's endowment fund and stock portfolio.

For example, the year saw the parish's endowment fund and investment portfolio increase by 1.1 percent from \$198,830 to \$201,011. The modest rate of growth, however, reflects the conservative nature of our investments during a period of unusually low rates.

Overall, the picture was more robust with total current assets up over the 12 months by 9.5 percent from 2012's \$225,010 to \$246,330.

Non-recurring income from such things as gifts to the endowment fund and for memorials declined by close on 12 percent from \$22,359 in 2012 to 19,694 in 2014. By contrast, in response to our construction appeal, giving to the building fund shot up by 1,117 percent over the period under review from \$1,520 to \$18,499.

One can get an idea of the volatility of our receipts. Fees for weddings, funerals and baptisms shot up by close on 150 percent from \$2,900 to \$7,185. The increase, however, was by no means entirely welcome as a vast proportion of it came from funerals, the receipts for which increased by almost 185 percent from \$2,000 in 2012 to \$5,685 in 2013.

On the other side of the balance sheet, operating expenses rose by a modest 2.9 percent from \$304,682 in 2012 to \$313,385 in 2013. Of this, personnel costs accounted for \$172,023 – an increase of 8 percent on the previous year's \$159,300.

Buildings and grounds maintenance overheads also increased sharply, rising by almost 89 percent from 2012's \$5,469 to \$10,309 in the year under review. The increase, however, was entirely attributable to the expenditure of \$5,933 on structural improvements and routine repairs.

Administrative costs declined slightly from \$51,720 in 2012 to \$51,334, despite acquisition of new computers and a 25 percent increase in the cost of office supplies.

Spending on the music program remained virtually unchanged at \$22,884, while much needed new equipment added some \$2000 to the running costs of the Church School.

**THE SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER**

May 18th, 2014

8.00 AM, & 9.15 AM AM HOLY COMMUNION

The Epistle: St. James 1:17-21

The Gospel: St. John 16:5-15

11.00 AM CHORAL MATTINS

The Psalter: 116

The First Lesson: Job 19:21-27a

The Second Lesson: St. John 16:5-15

By contrast, our overhead in the sphere of banking and finance declined by a full 33 percent from \$39,175 in 2012 to \$25,992. This was largely thanks to the negotiation of a lower interest rate on our mortgage, which resulted in a 20 percent reduction in our annual mortgage bill.

All things considered, it was a satisfactory financial year. Your vestry managed to hold the increase in overheads to just under 3 percent despite rising costs in a number of areas. We hope that we will do as well in 2014. **WILLIAM HAWKINS**

FROM THE VESTRY

Vestry candidates for the Annual Meeting, May 24th

ST. STEPHEN'S Annual Parish Meeting will take place between the 9.15 AM and the 11.15 AM services on Sunday, May 24th. Members at the meeting will receive the Rector's report on the state of the parish, the reports of the Treasurer and Wardens, and elect candidates for the Vestry. The candidates nominated for the vestry this year are all sitting members. They are:

WILLIAM H. J. HAWKINS

Mr. Hawkins was born in England, but became a U.S. citizen some years ago. He has lived in America for some 16 years and is a retired senior manager for Millennium Inorganic Chemicals in Hunt Valley. Although the name of the corporation has changed several times, he

was with the same company for the best part of 30 years, part of which was in the North East of England. Mr. Hawkins is a Chartered Engineer and is a member of the Institution of Chemical Engineers. He studied Chemical Engineering at Glamorgan University gaining an honors degree and has a postgraduate qualification in Business Management from Swansea Institute of Higher Education.

DR. KIRBY VON KESSLER

Dr. Kirby von Kessler, one of Baltimore's leading orthopedic surgeons, retired from practice a few years ago. He remains active in his profession, however, serving as a consultant to the Social Security Administration. In addition to being a vestryman, Dr. von Kessler also serves as acolyte at the 8.00 AM service of Holy Communion. A keen fox hunter, Kirby is an accomplished horseman and is active in local equestrian circles.

G. BROCK JOHNSON

A Baltimore native, Brock Johnson is a long time stalwart of St. Stephen's and has served on the vestry from the past seven years. He was a founding member of the Buildings and Grounds Committee, where his enthusiasm for keeping the church sparkling has earned him the nickname "Sparkles." Brock has for many years served as a Sunday School teacher and catechist, preparing our candidates for confirmation. He also teaches our Friday morning Bible study and serves as a lay reader. On a lighter note, he also makes a particularly villainous looking "gaoler" running the stocks at the Annual Garden Party.

FROM THE LADIES WHO LUNCH

Plan to join us on May 21st

THIS month the Ladies Who Lunch will be meeting at **12.15pm** at the Macaroni Grill on Padonia Road on Wednesday, May 21st. Why not join us for a convivial get-together over a delicious meal? Good food and good fellowship -- what more could you want? To reserve your place call Joyce Perlberg at 410-252-2680.

✠ PARISH PRAYER LIST ✠

OUR Prayer Chain offers prayer daily for people on the Prayer List as well as the guests of the Joseph Richey Hospice & Dr. Bob's Place. To add a name to the prayer list, or to the visiting list, or to join the Prayer Chain, call the parish office at 410 560 6776.

RECOVERY: Fr Guy✠, Fr. Mike✠, Carolyn, Hilarie, Vivian, Jack, Suzie, John, Rodney, Hamilton, Donald, Annie, Evelyn, Cal, Finton, Fran, Tracey, Linda Lou, Edie, Adele, Baby Charlie, Angie, Oona, Cary, Janna, Martina, Leela, Bobby Sally, Isabelle, Julie, Ray, Courtney, Mary, Phyllis, Liz, Joe, Indra, Ally, Marjorie.

LIGHT, STRENGTH & GUIDANCE: Stephen, Ann, Lydia, Remi, Melba, Donna, Josh, Kim, Shane, Susan, Paula, John, Hannah.

ON ACTIVE SERVICE: Lt. Benjamin Schramm, USMC; Lt. Alex Bursi, Capt. Charles Bursi, Lt Nicholas Clouse, USN. Lt. Col. Harry Hughes.

COLLECT FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

ALMIGHTY God, who showest to them that are in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; Grant unto all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same; through our Lord Jesus Christ.

AMEN

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✠ St Stephen's Anglican Church ✠

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Web Address: ststeve.com

RECTOR: The Rev. Canon Guy P. Hawtin

VICAR: The Venerable Michael Kerouac

ORGANIST & CHOIRMASTER: Adric

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL CARE: Happy Riley
(410-252-8674)

WEDDING CO-ORDINATORS: Happy Riley (410-252-8674)
Martha Miller (410-321-9038)

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00 am: Said Eucharist

9.15 am: Sung Eucharist (*with Nursery & Church School*)

11.00 am: Choral Mattins (*1st Sunday: Choral Eucharist*)

6.00 pm: Choral Evensong (*1st Sunday only*)

WEEKDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, 6.00 pm: Evening Prayer

Friday Noon: Healing Eucharist

Saturday, 5.00 pm: Family Eucharist.

Return Service Requested

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